

The Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. with all members and the County Clerk present. Janet Stewart, Kevin Shapland and Lydia Kautz, Ulysses News, were present. Commissioner Long led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The monthly department head meeting was held with the following in attendance: Dana McDaniel, Register of Deeds; O'LaVonne Michael, Senior Center Director; John Crosby, Fire Chief; Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor; Don Button, Emergency Management Coordinator; Marilea Honstead, Civic Center Manager; Jerry Jo Deckert, EMS Director; Rita Gee, County Treasurer; Kristy Frazee, Health Department Administrator; Lance Babcock, Sheriff; Richard Banes, City/County Inspector; and Greg Wellbrock, County Appraiser.

Commissioner Long on behalf of Grant County presented Commissioner McHenry with a watch and thanked her for 37 years of service.

Carl Higgs made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting, along with the claims against the various funds of the county, payroll total \$146,034.89 dated December 23; voucher numbers ending 146349 totaling \$447,353.75. Linda McHenry seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Michael Snodgrass, Builders Development Corporation (BDC), and Bob Dale Passini, Economic Development Director, met with commissioners. Jessica Akers, County Attorney, attended this portion of the meeting. BDC would like to purchase an acre of property, which borders the alleyway, at 300 E. Maize for the Moderate Income Housing Project. Before BDC move forward with engineering, Mr. Snodgrass requested a commitment on the acre of land. It was the consensus of the commissioners to commit an acre of land bordering the alleyway for the project. Commissioner Long asked Mr. Passini to have the property surveyed. BDC would like to start phases for developing the remaining property at 300 E. Maize and intends to pursue a grant for senior housing. BDC will need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Grant County committing two more acres of land for the project before they can apply for the grant. The commissioners requested the County Attorney research the sale of county property and return after lunch. After lunch the County Attorney and Economic Development Director returned. The County Attorney will need more time to investigate the issue. Commissioners requested the County Attorney draft a Resolution for the one acre of property needed to start the project and return for the next commissioners' meeting. Commissioner Long directed Mr. Passini to get with BDC and request they draft a MOU for the other two acres and present it to the commissioners.

Kristy Frazee, Health Department Administrator, and Judy Keusler shared information on the Community Health Improvement Plan. Ms. Frazee will have a community meeting to share the plan with Grant County citizens and invited the commissioners to attend.

Randy McCauley, Public Works Supervisor, requested permission to carry over some vacation time from last year for an employee hired after August 31, per the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual. Linda McHenry made the motion to grant special permission for Jonathon Wood to carry over five vacation days to 2015 as provided by the policy manual. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Next, an agreement was reviewed between the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and Grant County. It was the consensus of commissioners to participate in the Federal Fund Exchange Program through KDOT, banking \$127,826.15 in federal funds until needed for a project. Mr. McCauley discussed the fees for CD and metal disposal at the Transfer Station. Since the fees have not been raised since 2005, he suggested commissioners raise the fee by one dollar. Commissioners took no action on the request. Mr. McCauley shared a conversation he had with Kevin Swank out of Kendall, Kansas. Mr. Swank started a tree chipping business that would help the County by eliminating the need to burn trees at the landfill. Mr. Swank would not charge Grant County because he sales the chips to dairies. It was the consensus of the commissioners to allow him at the landfill if he has the appropriate insurance in place.

An email received by commissioners from the Civic Center Manager was discussed. The Barn Guys that bid on a pole building in October are no longer willing to stand behind their bid. Ms. Honstead offered an alternative company for the building but their quote would not be a turnkey project. Estimates to finish out the building would increase the project cost by \$6,000.00. Linda McHenry made the motion to increase the approval amount for the building by \$10,000.00 if necessary, and for this expense to be paid from the County Building fund. Carl Higgs seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

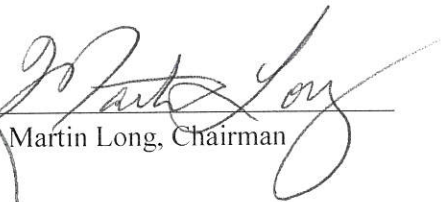
The present and incoming commissioners recessed for lunch with the Hospital Board of Trustees at Park View Assisted Living. Those attending were: Art Frable, Hospital Administrator; James Forrest, Director of Finance; and Board of Trustee Members, David Higgs and Mary Moyer. General discussion was held.

The commissioners adjourned at 1:45 p.m., to meet again in regular session on January 20, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

At 2 o'clock commissioners hosted a retirement reception for Commissioner Higgs. During the reception Commissioner Long on behalf of Grant County presented Commissioner Higgs with a watch and a longevity award for 20 years of service to the County.


Sheila Brown, County Clerk




Martin Long, Chairman